



Birth, Marriage, and Death Records of British Abroad

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FamilySearch Research Wiki

Information about finding British subjects overseas is in the FamilySearch Research Wiki. In the search bar type **England** and then choose **England Civil Registration** and then click on **Overseas and Military Civil Registration**.

Steps for Find Records

1. Existing family records/family trees
2. FamilySearch Research Wiki for country of residence
3. FamilySearch Catalog keyword search using the country of residence plus "British consulate" or "British embassy"
4. The National Archives embassy or consulate search

Keep in mind...

- British subjects living abroad were not required to register life events
- Records may not survive
- Be mindful not to "adopt an ancestor"

Major Overseas Collections Online

- *UK, Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects, 1628-1969* at Ancestry
 - Records from The National Archives, RG 32-26 (foreign registers and returns)
- *British Armed Forces and Overseas Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1761-2005* at Findmypast
 - Extensive records from the General Register Office and The National Archives
- *Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Records, 1627-1969* at The Genealogist
 - Records from The National Archives, RG 32-26 (foreign registers and returns)

General Register Office (England) Overseas Records

Records of births, marriages, and deaths of some English subjects living abroad including

- Military personnel and families beginning 1761
- Foreign births, marriages, and deaths beginning 1849
- Consulate records
- Those events that happened at sea or in the air
- Many of these are indexed at Findmypast—look for Gro in the entry

If you find an index entry in the British Overseas Records in Findmypast that includes “GRO or Gro” in the entry, you may order a copy of the certificate from the General Register Office.
<https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>

The information in the indexes from the various countries varies so provide as much information from the index as you can.

Scottish Abroad

Records of births, marriages, and deaths of Scottish subjects living abroad from 1855 will be found on ScotlandsPeople. <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Irish Abroad

If you find a record of Irish abroad, contact the appropriate General Register Office

- General Register Office of Ireland
<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/124a70-apply-for-certificates/>
- General Register Office of Northern Ireland
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/ordering-life-event-certificates>

Marriages at Sea

Marriages at sea might be recorded in the ship’s log but were not legally valid.

British Colonies

Those who were born, married, or died in British colonies were registered in the colony and these records are largely still in the colonies.

Embassy and Consular Records

Embassy and consular records include

- Correspondence
- Registers of births, marriages, and deaths of British subjects
- Court records
- Commercial records
- British churches and cemeteries
- Estates of British subjects

Not all embassy and consular records have survived. Those that have are at The National Archives in London. FamilySearch has some copies digitized. To find these on FamilySearch.org, click on Search, Catalog, and then Keyword. Search for the name of the country and either British embassy or British consulate.

For detailed instructions on how to find embassy and consular records in The National Archives, visit <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/foreign-commonwealth-correspondence-and-records-from-1782/>.